

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in regard to the application filed on 4/14/2005. Claims 1-19 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted on 4/14/2005 has been considered by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida (US Pub. No. 2002/0016944A1) in view of Jones U.S. Pat. No. 6,829,648).

As to claim 11, Yoshida discloses an error protection system, comprising: means for producing at least one protection bit stream from said bit stream using a channel coding technique (paragraphs [0004, 0150, 0123]).

Yoshida does not disclose means for generating at least one hint track from said at least one protection bit stream, wherein said at least one hint track is associated with said at least one protection bit stream in a many-to-one relationship.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Jones (figs. 4, 8-9) shows a system including a hint generator for processing media data utilizing hint track for transmission in a data communication medium (col. 8, lines 22-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to incorporate into Yoshida a hint track, as disclosed by Jones. Doing so would provide an improve method and apparatus for transmitting time related sequences of media data.

As to claims 12, Yoshida does not disclose an error protection system comprising means for storing said at least one protection bit stream and said at least one hint track on a storage medium. However, the limitation is obvious and well known in the art, as evidenced by Jones (col. 7, lines 48-67). See the motivation above.

As to claims 13-14, Yoshida (figs. 17) discloses an error protection system comprising: means for receiving from said receiving device an error correction request for error protection (paragraph [0004]); and means for outputting a first protection bit stream from among said at least one protection bit stream; wherein said first protection bit stream is produced at said coding act (paragraphs [0150, 0123]). Furthermore, Yoshida discloses an error correction system comprising: means for subsequently receiving from said receiving device a modified error correction request for error protection in response to a change of network condition; and means for outputting at least one modified protection bit stream from among said at least one protection bit stream produced at said coding (paragraphs [0148; 0150]).

Yoshida does not disclose the modified protection bit stream is produced at said coding act in accordance with associated hint tracks from among said at least one hint track.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Jones (figs. 4, 8-9) shows a system including a hint generator for processing media data utilizing hint track for transmission in a data communication medium (col. 8, lines 22-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to incorporate into Yoshida a hint track, as disclosed by Jones. Doing so would provide an improve method and apparatus for transmitting time related sequences of media data.

As to claim 16, Yoshida (figs. 17) discloses an error correction system, wherein said at least one protection bit stream is a data stream produced in accordance with a data protection coding method (paragraphs [0004, 0150, 0123]).

As to claims 17-18, Yoshida does not explicitly disclose a hint track is a data stream generated in accordance with a hinting algorithm. However, the limitation is obvious and well known in the art, as evidenced by Jones (col. 7, lines 48-67). See the motivation above.

As to claim 19, Yoshida (fig. 17) shows an error correction system, wherein the receiving device (25) is a client device and the sending device (24) is a server device.

As to claim 1, Yoshida (fig. 17) shows a method of transmitting a bit stream across a network from a sending device (transmitter section 24) to a receiving device (receiver section 25), the method comprising: a coding act for producing at least one protection bit stream from said bit stream using a channel coding technique (paragraph [0016]).

Yoshida does not disclose a generating act for generating at least one hint track from the protection bit stream, wherein said at least one hint track is associated with said at least one protection bit stream in a many-to-one relationship.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Jones (figs. 4, 8-9) shows a system including a hint generator for processing media data utilizing hint track for transmission in a data communication medium (col. 8, lines 22-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to incorporate into Yoshida a hint track, as disclosed by Jones. Doing so would provide an improve method and apparatus for transmitting time related sequences of media data.

As to claim 2, Yoshida discloses a method comprising a storing act for storing said at least one protection bit stream (paragraphs [0004, 0150]). However, Yoshida does not explicitly disclose a method comprising a storing act for storing at least one hint track on a storage medium. However, the limitation is obvious and well known in the art, as evidenced by Jones (col. 7, lines 48-67). See the motivation above. (paragraphs [0004, 0150, 0123])

As to claims 3-4, Yoshida discloses a method including: receiving an error correction request for error protection (paragraph [0004]).

Yoshida does not disclose a first protection bit stream is produced at said coding act and said associated hint tracks are generated at said generating act.

However, in the same field of endeavor, Jones (figs. 4, 8-9) shows a system including a hint generator for processing media data utilizing hint track for transmission in a data communication medium (col. 8, lines 22-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention to incorporate into Yoshida a hint track, as disclosed by Jones. Doing so would provide an improve method and apparatus for transmitting time related sequences of media data.

As to claim 5, Yoshida discloses a method, wherein said bit stream is a data stream output in accordance with a source coding method (paragraphs [0004, 0150, 0123]).

As to claims 6-9, method claims 6-9 correspond to apparatus claims 17-19; therefore, they are analyzed as previously discussed in claims 17-19 above.

As to claims 10 and 15, the claims have substantially the limitations of claim 1; therefore, they are rejected under the same rationale.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to: (703) 872-9306 for all formal communications.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fritz Alphonse, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3813. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-6:00, Alt. Mondays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jacques Louis-Jacques, can be reached at (571) 272-6962.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-3824

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Fritz Alphonse

Art Unit 2112

5/23/2008

/Rehana Perveen/

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